

# Interim English Placement Test

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## Who Takes the Test?

All first-time students and transfer students who have not yet satisfied the General Education requirements for English and Math must take placement exams in English and Mathematics. Incoming students who have studied French, German, Japanese, and/or Spanish are encouraged to take the foreign language exam for placement purposes. The exams are not graded and recorded on the transcript; the results are only used to place you in the courses appropriate to your skill level.

The Interim Entrance Exam is designed to determine whether non-native speakers of English are linguistically prepared for university work. The test is one of several factors which lead to a decision regarding whether students may be admitted to IU South Bend.

Students who pass may be placed into ESL support course(s) if they need more instruction. Students who are ready to enter a degree program may be exempt from additional instruction.

## Exam Format

The Interim Entrance Exam is given on the IU South Bend campus throughout the year. For details about the test dates, please call International Student Services at (574) 520-4419. There is no fee for the test, but there is a fee when applying for admission to IU South Bend.

The Interim Entrance Exam has two parts, both of which are given on the same day. The written exam measures academic reading and writing skills. Students write an essay in response to the ideas in a reading (a few paragraphs) from a university textbook. Students have 75 minutes to read the paragraphs, then plan, write and proofread their essay. The readings contain topics to which everyone can relate. Dictionaries are permitted, but no other documents or electronic devices will be allowed. The student should bring a pen/pencil and may also wish to bring a watch in order to monitor the time.

The second placement exam is a brief oral interview. Students will converse with a teacher for 10-15 minutes. The teacher may ask questions or make comments during the interview.

## Exam Results

Test results are forwarded to the Office of International Student Services (OISS). The OISS staff determine whether the student may be admitted and contacts the student by mail.

If admitted, the results are used by your the Director of ESL to place you into the appropriate course for your skill level. Courses are then completed in sequence each semester until the sequence is complete.

Note: Placement test results will be available to the OISS and academic advisors via One.IU within two days. Students may speak with the OISS about the results of the exam and should meet with their academic advisors to complete registration for the remainder of the semester's coursework.

## Class Registration

In order to better facilitate class scheduling and registration, all incoming international students who place into one or more ESL classes after taking the ESL placement exam will be automatically enrolled in their prescribed ESL class(es) by the Monday before classes begin. Returning students will be pre-registered each semester in prescribed ESL coursework according to the established sequence. Students who are placed in non-ESL composition courses must register on their own or with their advisors.

Students who want to appeal their placement or adjust their schedules with regard to pre-registration for ESL course work must contact the ESL Program Director once assessment is completed.

## Course Sequences

### Undergraduate Written English Course Sequence

ENG-W031

ENG-W130

ENG-W131

### Graduate Written English Course Sequence

ENG-W031

ENG-W130

ENG-G013

### Undergraduate Spoken English Course Sequence

LING-L100

### Graduate Spoken English Course Sequence

LING-L100

ESL ENG-G020

*For further explanation of test policies and procedures, the evaluation criteria, and the support courses offered in the English as a Second Language Program at IU South Bend, please contact: **Dr. Shawn Nichols-Boyle**, ESL Director, [sfnichol@isusb.edu](mailto:sfnichol@isusb.edu) or (574) 520-4360.*